

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed on 04/25/2008.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 16, 17, 19-25, 31, 32, 34-40, and 47-49 are pending in this application. In the Amendment, claims 3, 11-15, 18, 26-30, 33, and 41-46 were cancelled, and claims 1, 2, 16, 31, and 32 were amended.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert M. Meeks on 07/10/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing display of menu items on a display of an electronic device, the method comprising:

defining first and second menus comprising respective first and second groups of individually selectable menu items, wherein the first group of menu items is a subset of the second group of menu items;

displaying the first menu as a first rectangular array having plural rows and plural columns of individually selectable menu items; ~~and~~

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responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function, displaying the second menu as a second rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns of individually selectable menu items than the first rectangular array;

defining a third menu comprising a third group of individually selectable menu items, wherein the first and second groups of menu items are subsets of the third group of menu items;

responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function, transitioning from display of the second rectangular array to display of the third menu as a third rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns of individually selectable menu items than the second rectangular array; and

responsive to user activation of a menu reduction function, transitioning from display of the third rectangular array to display of the first rectangular array.

16. (Currently Amended) An electronic device, comprising:

a display;

a user input device; and

a processor operatively associated with the user input device and the display, the processor configured to define first and second menus comprising respective first and second groups of individually selectable menu items, the first group of menu items a subset of the second group of menu items, to display the first menu as a first rectangular array having plural rows and plural columns of individually selectable menu items ~~and~~, responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function via the user input device, to display the second menu

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as a second rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns of individually selectable menu items than the first rectangular array, to define a third menu comprising a third group of individually selectable menu items, the first and second groups of menu items subsets of the third group of menu items, to transition from display of the second rectangular array to display of the third menu as a third rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns of individually selectable menu items than the second rectangular array responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function via the user input device and to transition from display of the third rectangular array to display of the first rectangular array responsive to user activation of a menu reduction function via the user input device.

31. (Currently Amended) A program product for managing display of menu items on a display of an electronic device, the program product comprising code embodied in a processor-accessible medium, the code comprising:

code configured to define first and second menus comprising respective first and second groups of individually selectable menu items, wherein the first group of menu items is a subset of the second group of menu items; ~~and~~

code configured to display the first menu as a first rectangular array having plural rows and plural columns of individually selectable menu items and, responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function, to display the second menu as a second rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns of individually selectable menu items than the first rectangular array; and

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code configured to define a third menu comprising a third group of individually selectable menu items, the first and second groups of menu items subsets of the third group of menu items, to transition from display of the second rectangular array to display of the third menu as a third rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns of individually selectable menu items than the second rectangular array responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function via the user input device and to transition from display of the third rectangular array to display of the first rectangular array responsive to user activation of a menu reduction function via the user input device.

47-49. (Canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 16, 17, 19-25, 31, 32, and 34-40 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art either alone or in combination doesn't teach the limitation of "responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function, displaying the second menu as a second rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns of individually selectable menu items than the first rectangular array, defining a third menu comprising a third group of individually selectable menu items, wherein the first and second groups of menu items are subsets of the third group of menu items, responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function, transitioning from display of the second rectangular array to display of the third menu as a third rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns of individually selectable menu items than the second rectangular array, and responsive to user activation of a

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menu reduction function, transitioning from display of the third rectangular array to display of the first rectangular array", as in claims 1, 16, and 31, in combination with the other claimed features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THANH T. VU whose telephone number is (571)272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William L. Bashore can be reached on (571) 272-4088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Thanh T. Vu/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2175